

Elihu J. Carpenter
Military Service
United States Calvary
1866-1894

Elihu Joel Carpenter enlisted in the Civil war on or about 22 January 1863 in Company 9 of the 1st Battalion of the New York Sharpshooters. He served until 05 August 1863.

In 1866, after the war was over, Elihu re-enlisted in the U.S. Calvary with whom he would remain the next 28 years.

The following are extracts from his enlistment records as it appears re-enlistment was done approximately every 5 years.

- 12 May 1866 – he was living in Detroit, Michigan and enlisted in the 2nd U.S. Calvary. He states he was born in New London, New York, is 20 years old, and a farmer by occupation; he has gray eyes, brown hair and fair complexion; and is 5 feet 9 inches.
- 12 May 1869 – he was living at Fort McPherson, Nebraska and re-enlisted for a 5-year period. He states he was born in New Lebanon, New York, is 23 years old, and a soldier by occupation.
- 12 May 1874 – he was living in Camp Warm Springs, Wyoming Territory and re-enlisted for a 5-year period. He states he was born in New Lebanon, New York, is 28 years old; gray eyes, brown hair, fair complexion, 5 feet 9 inches; re-enlisted in Company C of the 2nd Calvary of the U.S. Army.
- 12 May 1879 – he was living at Fort Randall, Dakota Territory and re-enlisted for a 5-year period. He states he was born in New Lebanon, New York, a soldier by occupation, and re-enlisted as a commissary sergeant; gray eyes, brown hair, fair complexion, 5 feet 9 inches.
- 12 May 1884 – he was living at Fort Randall, Dakota Territory and re-enlisted for a 5-year period. He states he was born in New Lebanon, New York, is 38 years old, is re-enlisting as a commissary sergeant, gray eyes, brown hair, fair complexion, 5 feet 9 inches, is now married and 2 children.
- 12 May 1889 – he was living at Fort Keogh, Montana Territory and re-enlisted for a 5-year period. He states he was born in New Lebanon, New York, is 43 years old, a soldier by occupation, and re-enlisting as a commissary sergeant; he has “slate blue” eyes, brown hair, fair complexion, and 5 feet 9 inches.

Comments on the form note he has a vaccination scar on his left arm, one small scar on his right thigh, one small scar right leg, both small; the first midway between hips and knee, the second midway between knee and ankles.

12 May 1894 – he was living at Fort Schuyler, New York and re-enlisted for a 5-year period. He states he was born in New Lebanon, New York, is 47 years 6 months old, a soldier by occupation, slate blue eyes, dark brown hair, fair complexion, 5 feet 11 inches. Other physical notes: scar 1 ½ inches right leg above knee, several small round scars in the neck area; is married with wife and 5 children.

[Although he re-enlisted 12 May 1894 for another 5-year period, his pension file will show he retired in November 1894.]

Elihu married Clara Ridall on 08 January 1881 at Fort Randall, Dakota Territory. Clara's father, William, was a government surveyor and their family moved extensively during his working years. In 1880, William and his family moved to Yankton, Dakota Territory where they remained approximately 4 years. It was during this time in the Dakota Territory that Clara met Elihu. They would remain in the Dakota Territory for a decade or more, until moving to New York where Elihu retired from the service in 1894. They then moved to Clara's hometown of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania where they lived the remainder of their lives.